# *American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection*

## *Part 1: Missionaries*

# The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

## *Series I*

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

### *Folder Description:*

Correspondence,
November 20, 1927–December 12, 1927

| *Box Number:* | *Folder Number:* |
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P. S. Mother read first, I talked about the amber - so - Eula's ain't ready.

10 Kuan Hai Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
China, Nov. 20, '27

Dearest Mumsie & all:

Your letter of Oct 18. came this week from Korea so you see it made good time. It surely is a red letter day when your mail comes! I look forward to your letters always with such joy. Am glad the box came all right. You'll be opening it very soon after receiving this. That was so sweet of Richard to fix a box for you beside mine. Bless his loving little heart. The lamp & empty bottle were treasures too! I want you to tell me the full sum of duty on the amber & all & I want to pay it dear ones - I do so hate to have you pay on gifts. I hope you'll enjoy the contents of the box - I'll put in a note explaining about Eula's. You know I sent Leo's box too at the same time as Eula's & didn't get a letter written - Early the other morning it dawned on me they might

I too have failed to mark it Christmas as the shop sending yours - + I had visions of it all being opened + nothing in for Elisabeth as you love hers + how disappointed she'd be. I wrote them last night - but that'll be too late I fear. I just hope Leo maybe remembered what it might be. I'd not for worlds make Elisabeth feel forgotten. I'll be so eager to hear what you think of the amber + all. Yes it was separate - sent about two weeks or more later from Pyengyang. Poor Sarah may not get to enjoy it long - or do they feel that there is immediate danger. After I know they can live years if the proper proportions of insulin + food are kept. It makes me just sick to hear it. Does she know - no real hope for recovery! She wrote me the Dr's absolutely guaranteed a cure. Dr. Martin in Seoul tho said don't say anything else

3) It is the Dr's way of keeping her alive as there isn't any hope, I must try to write again soon. I remembered Eula gave her last years gift to Mrs. Sims & Sarah was so surprised to get it on the tree. You might ask Mrs. Sims their plans. If Sarah is able to be there it would be nice to surprise her again, of course they may have it already if they get a chair for it — but I know you'll know what is best! I looked to find some pretty Japanese silk cord for them here but so far haven't found any. Guess you'll have to get it in America — something — let the girls do that themselves.

I already did tell you what I want for Christmas. Please don't bother to send much!! Glad the furnace is O.K. The wind is whistling wildly out tonight. Was cold a couple of days last week but turned warm again but will be colder I expect. I'm still wearing wash dresses — the leaves

4. ones - dread putting on woolens as one must wear them so long. My little stove keeps my little study cozy + comfy. I only have a fire at night.

My! that is hard for Bud to be away so long at a time but am thankful he has work. Mrs. Eames Jackson Mrs. wrote that so many were out of work - college graduates with no jobs! I hope the kids can get their debt paid allright when the note comes due. Has Bessie been teaching at all?

Poor Mrs. Mack. It does seem so terrible - after all her years of unselfish service for his family that they should consent - + even make her so poor! Bless her heart She surely is a saint! I'm so sorry - Glad tho you stayed with her, no dear you simply can't stay up there alone! Don't consider it at all! The estate settling will be good. It will give you a definite basis.

Be sure to let me know if

5] you need anything. I'm happy
that Walter's clock is making
you happy - maybe you don't
think of it as his well I don't
if you'd rather not! I'm glad
you enjoy it. That's too bad
about Dr. Smith! Just makes
one sick! It was nice of the
Woodlawn folks to say they
miss my letters. There have been
a couple recently they could
use - sent them, so maybe that
will satisfy them. I don't want
to lose touch with them.

Today I had such a nice time.
Went this a.m. to hear Mr. Luke
[illegible] preach. He just preaches
wonderfully. It's such a joy to be
able to understand a bit! The
service was at the Lutheran
church. I went with Martha
Wylie of Chee-foo - (Pres.) She is
just so fine & true. I'm so glad
to get to know her. Then went
with her for dinner. She lives with
a Mrs. Moody of Lutheran mission
in her apartment in the Lutheran
girls school. They are very nicely

6 Ifixed, + we had a nice dinner but best of all such a nice visit. They are kindred spirits. Then when I got home it was nearly 3, I slept 2 hrs. I was quite weary so didn't go to foreign service but read in bed.

On our street these two days there has been quite a celebration. A general took a second wife, a big hall-like room was built in the front yard all decorated with flags + banners and all sorts of decorated paper bunting etc - The front of house covered with pine boughs etc - gorgeous red silk banners with Chinese characters all over them. Today at noon the procession came from her home - ever so many banners + flags preceded the two chairs in which rode the bride + groom. I saw them come to the house but didn't see them get out. Too many other curious folks (like me) - The street was

7) just packed with onlookers!! The family seemed to all be up on an upper porch - well decked in silks & wearing the red paper wedding pompon! Later in P.M. I came by & a band was playing & crowds were drinking tea in this hall. Just imagine - Mrs. E. was frequent by the first wife chooses the second one. Of course the first is still first & boss & if any children are born to second they count as hers! - It does give her one more to order around - but oh the situation is one we simply can't conceive at all! All this great gorgeous pomp & splurge is to give the man "face" - prestige etc - as of course the cost is in proportion. It is very sad!

Yesterday Mrs. Chao & Miss Liu came to take me out to the Japanese temple. We first had tea to drink & cakes - then went for this long walk. They are so nice. I'm so

8] grateful for these contacts! Miss Liu is just (18) + is so sweet. There is a kind of zoo with a few animals out beside the temple. We came back + they sang some songs in Chinese for me. We talked Chinese all the time - They helped me + we had a good time.

Wed. P.M. I went for the class I told you of. I prepared these lessons with the teacher. He is so nice. He prayed I'd be able to teach + they receive benefit. We went out to the prayer meeting first. About 25 women there. A young Bible School graduate preached first + so well!! Then after meeting we were given a pupil. My was calculated to remove any false pride (I haven't I don't think at least not now) over any language attainments!

She was an old lady, a few teeth out - + with all the awful Shantung tones + hard

4 sounds", all in one!! She frankly said, "I don't understand your talk"!! Well, we talked on + at last we managed fairly well. She almost committed her lesson. It was great fun!! They said if you can talk with an old uneducated country woman you're an expert - for they aren't careful to speak clearly nor plainly - no teeth don't help - + they use a sort of colloquial speech all their own! It was lots of fun tho - just what I love! Then the Bible woman took us to a home to call + we had nice flower tea. They were so lovely, met a nice lady who told me all about her son + nephews having been to America. I hope to go back again but they will soon be beyond me. I miss the teacher too so am not sure how wise it is to go all the time! I thought you'd be interested. The teacher told me later when I related my experience

10 That many Chinese couldn't understand that dialect either. It was a good experience!! – Had such a nice letter from Alberta Van Cleave this week. She told me of her surrender for the field. She is a dear girl! It was so nice of her to write.

We'll go ~~Thurs.~~ eve. to Castle Inn – to a community dinner. I'd rather it be a noon but can't be I guess. I just must find some way to help these poor poor folks here – or I'll be crazy myself – There's no organization. Chang Sun Chang stopped it. & we don't know how to help & who but the poverty & war & suffering interior have driven hundreds out. They come on the way to Manchuria – many of them in dire need! Oh I wish the Master could soon come to bring peace & a settlement to these big problems – it is sure man can't end the ills of the poor old world! Dear blessed ones goodnite & lots lots of love to the dearest ones on earth!! I love you so & long for you all. How grateful tho I am to God to be able to be here! Just pray I may really be of use to win souls. It seems so hard to be able to talk a little & still not enuf to really tell the story – Only as you my loved ones & my church supporters pray can I be of use – Ray is preaching now & so I write

Bye – nitey – nite! God bless Him – love Irene

101 Kuan Hai Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
China. Dec. 3, 1927

My Own Precious Ones:

Once again over a week has gone & no letter written home! I just seemed doomed!! I'd planned to write my heart out tonight & Mrs. E. has just left my room & its now 8:15 with my bed-time coming soon! Woe is me if I don't get your letter off on Sunday! It just keeps getting put off & off. I hope you're not worried - please don't if the time is a bit long.

I have two wonderful letters to answer - the October - 25 - I did so enjoy. You asked who the Clarks were - I thought I said before I met Bessie at Sorai - She keeps house for her widower brother about (50) & two girls in Seoul. She was so faithful in coming almost every day to see me at hospital & then was just such a peach in inviting me to stay with them afterward.

21 It was "brother" who helped me to the trains. Yes I think if you'd write the Reynolds it would be fine. Did I tell you initials D.W. — Dr. + Mrs. I expect George Sutherland is married by now as I heard it was to be in Nov. Dear old Dodge - some of these lovely fall days I did wish for it!

Your letter with Mr. Hansen's enclosed came in the same mail with one from him. A very fine letter - I enjoyed it muchly! As to the decision — I don't know what to say - Better divide me + quarter me + then all will be satisfied. Bless the dear folks at Woodburn - I'm awfully pleased they do want to keep me - It was sweet of them. Somehow I do feel unusually attached to them + it did my heart good to know they felt so. I feel so toward Bethel very much + Gervais + Aurora but I always now think of father's relation there + how the people there were so good to you + him + they did the

3) last services for him. Then if they feel any more interest in missions because of claiming me, I'm glad to be that link. I know they can't support me but if it helps them to feel I still belong there I am willing to. On the other hand I want my membership in Eula's + Ray's church especially since that group is giving + I know it is the Board rule (not rule) practise sometimes to put ones letter in the supporting church. However I wonder just how much it would really mean to Roseburg people for my letter to be there - any more than I already mean to them. Their interest would go with their gifts regardless of letter wouldn't it? Because letter or no letter I really belong to them. My question is will it make enuf more difference to the Roseburg church to justify severing the only tie in the Woodburn church. It is so sweet of you Eula + Ray to want it changed + to come + to help so in every little way

4] to help me to feel Roseburg is
my home. I appreciate that
more than I can put in words!
From that angle of it I'd love
to say change it. There is this -
we're supposed to put our
acting membership in the Chinese
church as soon as we can -
+ if I'm located next year at
Yihsien or wherever I'll love
to put it in there. I believe there's
a kind of ruling by which
we become honorary, or asso-
ciate or something to the home
church. Why not leave it
where it is until we know
for sure where in China I must
put it. Then maybe we can
arrange that other kind -
As I feel I no less belong to
Roseburg because my letter is
there - and somehow it hurts
a bit to think of severing just every
tie with what I must just
naturally, for a time because of
the nature of the circumstances
think of as home. After a little

5] time it may be easier to do it.
Eula + Ray I hope you under-
stand — it isn't that I don't
want to belong to Roseburg because
letter or no letter — you've got
me "for better or worse till death
do us part" — so in reality it
makes no difference in Roseburg
and it's a bit of sentiment, yes,
and maybe helping them a bit
(I'm not conceited that it's I they
want — but it's fact I'm here as
a missionary) I'm awfully torn
in two over the decision I want to
belong both places — I will say
this — if there is a strong sentiment
which will injure your unity of the
support + etc". (I can't really see
that that it could make much differ-
ence to others than to you + Ray, Eula)
I'll change but I feel I already
belong without a letter + I'd like
to feel I can think of something
of the past, "connection with home
especially for Daddy's sake, I
hope you understand — I've felt
it was nice this way because I
could belong to both + if I
change I won't. Will not say

6) definitely this letter but what do you think?

My! the boys and all this school news does tell me that I've been away a year + more!! Bless their hearts!! Going to dentist etc!! Big boys aren't they? I enjoy the picture Miss Sherk sent so much. It's on my desk. Are Mickle's still in Grants Pass? Too bad about the kiddie.

Tsingtao is Wade Romanization way of spelling the German way of Tsingtau. So take your choice - but since its back to China almost all the papers + all spell it Tsingtao. It is the same place - only one place. One said yesterday that the Bay of Naples is so famous for its blue bay with Mts rising up from it - + that it could not be more lovely than this place. It is true the view we have always from our porch is lovely no matter the mood Nature is in!

Bless you sweet memories for

7] [Excuse change of paper - that ~~tablet~~ is all as Auntie Ev used to say]
your sweet faith for my safety. It makes it so much easier to know you feel so!!

I'm enclosing a five-dollar bill which I bought from a girl here which I've wanted for sometime to be able to send to you. Please send $1.20 of it to Mrs. E. A. Waldeck 732 Ottawa Avenue, Grand Rapids Mich for 2 yrs. class dues of M.B.I. Also $2 to the Delta Club, New Concord, O., from me from the house. Then keep the rest as duty!! Eula!! please when Mrs. Bodie + Miss Shenk are thru with the copy of letter "To Korea and Back to China" please it + send it to Ella Kerrod, 145 Fait Avenue Los Gatos, Cal. 2. When you're all thru with the Korean letter - please send it to Mrs. Swope for their Ladies Missy (to whom I spoke once) + she send it on to Mrs. John Hermansen 108 Levens Street, Dallas Oregon for her S.S. class + she return it to you

8] guess that's all the orders for the present. Thank you very much!! De Etta said she enjoyed it very much. I had such a nice long letter from her last week. They sent $5 gold Christmas gift. They opened their basket the day it came + seem they thrilled over it. She sent me money to get her some more brass + an amber drops - I'll get Bessie Clark to do it in Seoul.

Now its after nine + of course bath nite (Sat) so I must close now. I'll answer your last letter + tell the other nice news + answer to prayer tomorrow nite gracious ones!

Sun. A. M. Now I have a little free time so I'll begin again on your letter where I left last night. This is the thing which is so wonderful + exciting. I told you before if something didn't happen to enable us to help the poor I'd burst!! Well, Mr. Li, my teacher this month was here two days when the same beggar kept coming! We pow wowed

9] made at all but just information given as to plans. In the meantime our money is almost 200 - will be 250. before were thru - Some old clothes have been given + one darling little baby's padded coat made with old but good serge for the top. They reported such pitiable conditions See the interior has had no crops this year - no rain - bandits + war all combine to make 50 of 106 of Shantung's counties practically destitute. Many come to city with hope of getting work + many leave for Manchuria - Well the numbers are just beyond count who are in need - of course we can't help all but we can do what we can! The amt. of money has just been exceeding abundantly above all we asked ask or think. Then these Chinese helpers have gone on with the investigating so well.

Saturday a.m. I went to bank to deposit the money. He, (teller) said

8) over the matter. When that night I saw Mrs. Walter, they are of our Board bound for Tsining & so forth — we decided to call a meeting of language folks to talk! They appointed us then Mrs. W. & me to go on & do some-thing. We felt we didn't know how or what — to do anymore than we had before — but at least there was support — We went out to Mrs. Lui's (she a Bible woman at a church out where I went to teach a couple of times. She had some ideas so it was decided on Thanksgiving P.M. to have a big meeting to talk it over here at our house. There were two Chinese teachers, Mrs. Lui, & she brought such a fine Miss Chiao, been in Nanking U. to college & is very capable, & Miss Tan with her, We had devotions then talk & tea & cakes, To meet again next Mon. In meantime see how much money people'd give us & they investigated some homes. That met at Mrs. Walter's. We had $126 then. I was wonderful no urging announcements were

10. You must have a letter from the Board of directors authorizing you to deposit this as Treasurer. I was so amused - to think of our little beginning + then to be asked for credentials from a Board of Directors!!!! It surely did amuse me! I explained that there wasn't any such in existence so he compromised on letting me put the money in but I can't sign checks as Treas.!! Anyway I left the money. In P.M. Two men went with the two teachers to investigate + Miss Wood + I went with Mrs. Liu. Mercy! I can't begin to write that experience, We went to one of the more prosperous of the poor haunts - houses one small room only + made of some straw matting + it tied on to the house with a system of strings + rocks tied in as weights. One house was made of tin oil can filled with mud + rocks + plastered together with mud! Little crowded together houses - Some of small pieces of brick + mud. Some seemed very poor others had on padded clothes

10 and bad food. While there
was plenty they didn't have still
that group we won't be respon-
sible for because so many are
so much worse off. In our
wanderings various places we found
two in most awful need. One a family
of five living in a room (on which
the owner a Christian) doesn't collect
any rent – maybe 6 by 10. with old
rags on the wooden bench arrange-
ment which serves as bed on one
end & mats at other end – in a basket
we saw a bit of flour – & that's all in the place – There were
2 older sons maybe 14, 15, one was out
burning paper on the father's grave,
[he was killed when a boat was
sunk in the summer] the other
sitting on the bed – very thinly
clad & covered up with these rags.
They'd tried to get rickshas to pull
but all there are were rented & they
couldn't go with no clothes &
Miss Wood was telling her to
believe in God & pray to Him &
explaining the gospel story & the
old lady with tears got down
& kowtowed – (bowed her head to
the floor) to Miss Wood. She was

12) deaf + evidently thought Miss. Wood said to worship her!! Well, the Bible woman straightened that out but we could see there was fear in her mind. She kept saying "why have you come"? Many fear an investigations + are superstitious about it - others fear government (ie; those refugeeing here fear they'll be made go back so they won't talk.) The little boy + girl just had old thin clothes - dirty - but even dirty ones can be warm if they are padded. I think this family is needing help all right. Talk about politeness!! These orientals even beggars are so hospitable! They shake out the old rags + with true courtesy offer you a seat. This poor old soul wanted to be polite + didn't know what we wanted - so asked if she should get us cigarettes. By much repeating she at last understood that we were "preaching the way" of gospel as the ~~literal~~ translation of that phrase

13] We had tracts & gave out a great many. Some were very eager to get them & almost all listened as they explained the meaning.

We went to the home of a dear little old lady over 70 who is a Christian. She is so shriveled & short & almost blind, – has the most tiny bound feet (of course old ladies can't unbind their feet) She'd been coming to the class & she repeated for us all she'd memorized at class! Two ladies from the same court-yard came in who weren't believers & Miss Wood & Mrs. Lui told them the story & gave them tracts – One was there while we had prayer with the little old lady! There was much seed sown – God will Himself water & harvest its fruit.

Then we went on to a big building – had been barracks I expect – but found many beggars living there – One woman we felt very deserving. Two kiddies (3-4 yrs) no shoes, stockings & only top garments no padded trousers. They were

14. were inside a barn like place but that's all you can say. They had a mat on the ground to sleep on. The woman went off with a bucket to beg food. She got some for kiddies but not for herself! We think we can get them helped rather soon. Some rooms we saw built of tin partitions in this courtyard they said they paid 80 cents a month rent for. There are many poor at the wharf + out away to West with only mats for covering + ashes for beds - some no mats. That's especially hard to help - they won't tell who they are + you can't just go out + permiscuously give out - one would be mobbed!!

Then last night - oh I almost forgot to tell this - It was my first real night of just this circumstance + I was receiving so many impressions + looking so + inside I don't know what - that I'd didn't try to talk much (strange to say) + a couple pointed to me + said "She can't talk" - so I piped up - But Miss W. has been her 10 yrs. + Mrs. Lee is Chinese - do you wonder I didn't try

15] to compete! I tell you these experiences are good for one!!
One after another we'd ask "if they'd heard of "the Jesus Doctrine" and the answer would be no.
It's a stickler to know what to say in a few minutes to one absolutely ignorant of it! Mrs. Liu said of one woman she'd have to teach her many days for her to understand! It's a big job ahead!!
How I long to be able to talk!!

Well, then last night Mrs. E. + I were powwowing over how to get the most clothes for our money. One can buy second hand ones but they are so cheap + not warm + wouldn't wear! She suggested that the various Christian girls schools might give a day or two of sewing! So this A.M. I paddled out to see the principals as we "commit" (committee meets) tomorrow to decide. The first one, of the Lutheran school promised to make 25 - + I have half promise of Bapt. missy society women to sew - will see the lady again - + the Pres. School

16) Tablet #3, but this a new one so maybe it will be enough to finish my letter!

School will let me know to-morrow & Some of the women out at the class too will help so there seems to be hope of getting them made. It is all so exciting to be working with the Master and to see Him just lead ahead & open the way. Truly, "Before ye call I will answer". It has been such a sweet experience, It looks pretty big ahead but the Master walks before, It is just such a joy to see how all just cooperate so & there is such a fine spirit in the committee!

The plan now for giving the clothes out is for Mrs. Liu to send for these folks to come to the church with a ticket which will give & can't be duplicated & for her when she gives the clothes simply take time to carefully explain the gospel

17] They will have been at the church once + will know the way back. What do you think of our scheme - It isn't ours really - the Holy Spirit is the leader in truth! It's such fun!

Along with all this is the regular routine - plus trying to get Christmas cards off! I've at last gotten all those back letters off. I'll not mention the pile gradually growing of new ones but at least the "antiques" are answered. Then one night we went to the Chalfants to dinner + one night guests were here. One P.M. Miss Liu the little Chinese girl came - One P.M. I went again to the Bible study class. This time my pupil was a young wife - very clever (I saw that because she could understand my talk!!) but we had a great time + talked a blue streak! She was so attractive. I surely

18] did enjoy her! Mr. Tewksbury urges me to go in spite of missing the teacher those two hours.

In my last letter I wrote of going to the country but it turned pretty cold & all the advisors said not to go for the first time in such weather so I obeyed. I'd rather like to stay by till we get this poor relief off. of course another could easily take my place. After class on Wed. we stopped at Mission's to call. She had missed one committee meeting so we called to ask about her. This is quite a wealthy family.

Had big stoves in two rooms – the girls all have been educated. One teaches in gov't school here. A brother was graduated at Columbia & two close relatives girls studying music at Oberlin. I rather have my eye on that place to live later – you'll begin to shiver again I suppose

19] at my begining to talk of living with Chinese again - but honest injun!! its the only way. I won't till Spring anyway - for I'm saddled here pretty well in the house but Mrs. E. will move in April back to the seaside house + I'll be free then to go - Of course all this is news to the Tan's + may not work at all! But I've that in my bonnet!

I have moved my study downstairs to the big living room. The little one upstairs they needed as a bed room for kiddies - especially if one is sick (which one has been for two weeks) + its so nice to have this room for committee meetings etc. The little one was too little + its better etiquette not to take the Chinese teacher upstairs Of course it would be allright but this room wasn't in use before. I may move back if it is too hard to heat. It has a

20) fireplace only! I love it for appearance but it isn't so hot + burns more coal. However till after Christmas I'll stay down. I got some flowered creton for curtains quite gay but not bad with the rest of my things - 4 big windows here - so what I had didn't begin to go. I should have bought more than 6 yds when it was such a bargain - anyway these do nicely. Cen amah came to make them. I moved the night before Thanksgiving + she worked on them that day. I think it is remarkable to dare to pay only 85¢ duty on that amber - I feared much worse. I'm glad you like them so mummie dear + think they are pretty.

I'll try mummie dear not to pick up Chinese superstitions. I have my doubts about those people doing it. I wonder if they were understood exactly. Anyway later you may judge if I have or not. I didn't know kindergarten gave report cards - they're at school for sure!

21. I'm sure Hazel + Aunt Glennie will appreciate their scarfs! It's nice Hazel has a nice new home. That's interesting about the boxes! That surely was interesting about the Halls staying with Uncle Arthur's + Aunt Glennie's. He recognize his own work at once too besides recognizing the faces in the pictures. I haven't sent a box to Glenn's or Aunt Callie. I've a little silk purse for aunt Callie - but I didn't know what to ~~go~~ for Glenn + Jo + Earl - I may find some linen yet to sent to Josephine - Pie. I'll see tomorrow. Haven't all my cards off yet will do some yet tonite. Had a fine service, a Chinese Dr. Cheng Ching Yi (his picture is in a late Literary Digest) spoke on the Church of Christ in China union movement. He is perfectly fine. He'll speak too at Language School. I'll still try to write every week rather than this - such a volume will tire you to wade thru - Bye dear loved ones for now - Merry Christmas to all - if it's too late anyway I'm first to say Happy New Year! All my love to you! How I long for all of you - but still I'm so happy to be here. I wish the Master soon come to right all the wrongs + unite us all again - Love, love, to all. Irene

10 Kuan Hai Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
China
Sunday Dec. 12, 1927

My dearest dear loved Ones:

Two letters this week from home. My! but thats a treat - Nov. 8 + 14. The second one came in very good time. I am so glad to hear, I didnt remember ~~W~~ Warren's birthday at all - in fact none but yours can I ever remember. I'm glad you wrote - Le Etta said in her letter it had long since they'd heard - written too maybe. I just cant become accustomed to the boys in school! I seem to get a shock at the thought but I might as well get used to it! That was funny about Richard saying he has a sister! He's a good little Chinese. that would be perfectly all right here! That's so nice Bud can get to be with you over some week ends - Its so hard for him to be away all the time - especially over Sunday that it is good he can with

2) you once in a while — to help in
in lonely wandering way. I hope
Swapes go over often to Keep Bessie
company! They are such dear kids!!
They do deserve to make good
and I hope they can get their house
debt paid + all!
I'm glad you tell of the furnace,
+ missy. meeting, Ray's sermons etc
it helps lots to know your life
there. I didn't mean to limit
the whole supply of amber to
Korea — it can be bought in Southern
China but the amber drops like
these can't. I'm sure its supply
is more or less limited but maybe
in other places. I'm glad they
like them so!!
Bless your dear heart, mumsie
mine, to be looking for letters +
I feel guilty when I think of the
two times I've missed a few days
but the boats may have delayed
them anyway — but I'll try to
write even if only a card — + not
miss any! Yours come so regularly
and I appreciate them so for
I know it isn't easy to write!

3) about the language study.
The Board plans one year in a regular school - in ordinary times then will go to the station & have practically the 2nd yr. free for language by third yr. do half time work. That is the rule. Of course some like nurses & Drs. get pushed in by the dire need & they can manage with less language tho are handicapped! This year because many can't be interior all who are here are in L.S. work & Board requires it. The testimony of nearly all is that as a whole they are pushed in so soon their time is never given for sufficient L.S. Some missions ^all are in Pres. now rule you must pass three years before 1st furlough. The new phases of work (I mean in the new place in Chinese church foreigner must take) demands better language preparation. — so in all there is that to be glad for in the present upset conditions. It will give that needed opportunity. About the dialect - Yes Shantung's is different but our Pekinese can be understood

4] all over China & the real basis of characters & sentence structure is the same. The differences can be learned & classified & then after that you just automatically (they say, I haven't reached the automatic part of any of it) understand or change. There are local differences in different towns but the big basis is the same, Ex. Shantung say gin (get in get) where Peking says gin — Then there is a change in tones the Peking 3+4 & Shantung 3+4 just reverse!! So we're so far in the adjusting process. I guess I speak more Pekinese than the other but time will help a bit. My teacher now speaks much like Pekinese & they are not emphasizing our changing our dialect very much. It must come gradually. Shantung pronounces my name, Fan as we in American a fan — in Peking ǎ as in Ǒre. I do not like the hard sounds as well as soft Pekinese. It is much clearer also than Shantung!

5) Of course that doesn't begin to count the "tu hua" or uneducated language of the country folks - we won't study that - but that to pick up as needs be. Oh it's a big mountain to climb + one can go on + on - + then there is more! I'll be so happy to be able to talk enuf to tell gospel story to poor old women - there is no idea to tack it too in my attempts so far - never heard of Jesus nor God + then I'm about stumped for words so far! But the Master will give the strength I'm sure!

Now about our beloved work! This week has surely been one thrilling one! Monday the committee met, Elder Hu, a wonderful slow-going gray-haired man of the old type Chinese, so genuinely Christian + fine, chairman My teacher Mr. Li, (40 yrs old maybe - I never can tell Chinese ages) but full of pep + enthusiasm, Mrs. Liu, the Bible woman Miss Chiao helper, Mrs Walter Miss Wood + I. They in their padded garments were too hot in

11 in my house so we ventilated -
after prayer - they discussed +
talked - I've heard that the
Chinese love to discuss + must have
plenty of time - You remember
Kipling's rhyme - on the gravestone
"The man who tried to hurry the
orient" Well, it was fun - I
reported the news Lutheran girls
would make 25 garments, Pres, 25
then Mrs. Liu said her women would
make 24, Then Mrs. Stevens of Bapt
came with a dear little Chinese lady
who said their group would make
40! It was thrilling. Then after
figuring + talking the committee
appointed Elder Hsu + Mr. Li to buy
cloth, cotton + thread "the next
we had tea to drink + a lovely talk - fest"
P.M., + the rest came here to help
measure it + apportion for these
allotments. That P.M. I studied
early + only a little while + off
they went for goods. Now if
you can't think it thrilling!!
I was so thrilled. Pretty soon
here came coolies carrying bolts
of blue cotton cloth + Hsu
Chang Lao (elder) gave me the

7/ bill. Then in great solemnity
the committee watched our first
purchase of cloth + the check
drawn on the precious Trust
fund! It was like a ceremony
but we were so thankful. Just to
think of the wee begining + the
Master's blessing making it that
far!! Then came cotton 100 chin
a chin is more than a pound +
once more a check was drawn this
time with Mr. Li, the escorter
of the coolies! Then we measured
off the required feet + chin's of
cotton + sent it off to the schools.
We'd hoped to buy old second
hand clothes for the men – here
our quotas were all full +
the report that men's clothes
were poor + expensive made
us trust for some way to open
up for them. When the man here
returned from taking the Pres.
their quota of 25 he said they'd
make 80 instead of 25 so there
were our men's clothes! Praise
the Lord! How sweetly He has
lead + opened the way for it all.

8) So next day off the men went again to buy + again we repeated the ceremony - spending in all 155.00 for cloth + cotton. Miss McCurdy - an evangelistic worker from Hwai Yuen is helping in the investigating + says that the things given out are so needed + so gratefully received! That blessed mother with the babies without shoes + stockings bowed with her head to the dust in gratitude. Of course these things are secondary + are only door openers to the gospel. That Mrs. Liu emphasizes very much!! Miss Mac. brings in a list of needs + we try to fill them. It has been such fun just watching the Father open the way + to work along side the Master. Thurs. nite she came with a report + we had to change orders to the girls etc - She also needed a certain pair of shoes - which we got for asking at L.S. The wonderful spirit of cooperation

1] is perfectly lovely! Mr. Li went on P.M. to see those! also helping poor folks to see that we're not duplicating them,
Then Friday eve. Miss Moody of Lutheran school - came in with the first finished products - one little coat + 4 pairs of padded pants (5 yr. old size) That was an exciting moment too! They were taken out Sat. P.M + I expect now are covering some cold little kiddies!! Think in less than a week - Last Sun. I was trotting around asking the sewers - + today some of the clothes being worn! Its so sweet! The Pres. girls had to do their outside of school hours - till this week they are given time - but Mrs. Swinen said, the spirit is so lovely + the eagerness + enthusiasm was touching! Of course its good for them to help others but we appreciate it so! Our money is about out now - but as we can

10] do more, it will be supplied. If mine to do more. Now, this far so good - but much prayer now must be asked that it not end in merely giving clothes - that hearts be opened and souls won!!! My it's been sweet! + such fun! I know you'll enjoy this - not because of the people involved - for without God nothing could have been done - but because it's a sign of God's blessing + working in spite of the turmoil. It's been so fine to see the interest!

Yesterday "Miss Liu + Mrs. Chiao" came to see me. We had tea + chatted + had real fun! I love them so they are so sweet! Our vacation begins Dec 21 - + we have til Jan 3. We haven't many plans so far. The girls want me to come to Peking but I'd rather stay here + give that money - besides the political situation is far from settled. We might get hung up some place + have no trains. Mr. Eames is expected by this time next week. Of course they will have a Christmas them-

-selves & are always nice about including me in everything but that seems so like it just needs the family to be complete I don't like to intrude. A lot of the girls & folks here are going to Shanghai but Anita Irwin whom I like especially may stay. If so she may come & stay a few days with me. We are planning to make a lot of candy for remembrances and to have here. That will be fun. I hope to spend the day helping someone else if I can & not be sitting thinking — of lots of things - you dear ones & Daddy Si - His first Christmas. I wonder how they celebrate Christmas in Heaven! Surely it is kept some way, I imagine with great joy and praise", with real appreciation of the meaning of the day — which the earth doesn't have —
Keeping christmas in the courts of God - we must keep thinking of that & not our lonely side of it. Daddy really enjoyed our

[12] more than he ever admitted! Ah it would be such fun to come down stairs + wake him at his paper + have him tell me not to kiss him when he wanted me to all the time!

Mother, the warm furry slippers we got a Penney's are a joy!! I enjoy them so. All the gifts I do enjoy so. Mrs. Noyes warm coat with Aunt Clara red scarf + the last minute mittens are my daily companions!

Bye dearest ones - I love you so so much, + am so grateful to God for you! God bless + keep you well + may the exquisite sweetness of His peace + comfort be yours daily!

Nity-nite - Love to all "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good-night" (Moseley's just been reading night before Christmas) Love dearest ones!

Your - Irene